The SMART Project has provided me with many opportunities to become a better teacher in the ever changing world of technology. There have been many “Ah, ha!” moments both celebrations and challenges. Because of the technology, I have become more aware of how it can transform the curriculum, but feel that this year I have only have wet my feet. Next year, I am going to jump into the deep end and really use the technology as a tool to engage our students in authentic learning as well as to communicate with my students, parents and the world around us. I already have many ideas, now that I am more familiar with the tools and possibilities around social networking. I absolutely love gathering with colleagues to share ideas and the learning that takes place is second to none; this is important for our students as well. I am hoping that through a social networking platform that my students and I can connect with other students and educators from around the world to share ideas, collaborate and learn from one another. I am always amazed at how technologically literate young students are and the ways in which they are communicating, relating and interacting with the world around them. I feel that my job as an educator today is more important than ever as our world is becoming more transparent through the use of technology. I need to demonstrate effective searching, gathering and interpretation techniques while my students use the tools and information to explore solutions to real world problems. We really have the world at our fingertips with the click of a few buttons. In an article that I read it stated that ,”Schools that capitalize on the relationship between technology and educational reform will help students to develop higher order skills and to function effectively in the world beyond the classroom. Achieving such fundamental change, however, requires a transformation of not only the underlying pedagogy (basic assumptions about the teaching and learning process) but also the kinds of technology applications typically used in classrooms.” I have observed that the technology in my classroom has engaged students in challenging, authentic learning. I am hoping that as I become more familiar with the technology that I can draw on technology applications that will simulate real-world environments so that my students can carry out authentic tasks as real workers would, exploring new terrains, meeting people from all around the world while using the tools to gather information and most importantly solve problems. When we are using the class set of lap top computers it is very obvious that the students are more self-reliant. They work together; peer coaching and solving problems. My role during these times becomes one of a facilitator. The technology has help our students develop positive cooperative learning relationships while working together researching topics and creating presentations. I have watched our students learn with and from one another in a very positive way. As this year comes to an end I feel that I have much to celebrate in terms of what I have learned and accomplished using the technology; however this is only the beginning.

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